Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of April 26, 2004 to April 30, 2004

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Canadian GDP	February			Canada's real Gross Domestic Product was unchanged in February, following a 0.2% retraction in January. Strong growth in retail trade (+2.3%), due to increased automotive sales, was offset by a 4.6% decrease in utilities production as February weather warmed considerably from the previous month. Other industries posting gains in February included real estate (+1.9%), mining and oil and gas extraction (+0.4%) and manufacturing (+0.1%), while agriculture (-0.6%), construction (-0.4%), and wholesale trade (-0.4%) reported decreases. On an annual basis, Canadian GDP was up 1.6% from February 2003.
(Millions of 1997 dollars)	1,024,942	0.0%	1.6%	
Wholesale Trade ($ Millions)	February			Canadian wholesale trade fell 0.3% in February, the second consecutive monthly decline. Six of the eleven trade groups registered declines, with the largest decreases reported in motor vehicles (-3.6%) and computers and software (-3.1%). Excluding the fall in the automotive sector, wholesale sales rose 0.4%. The top three gains were posted in lumber and building supplies (+4.0%), metals and hardware (+3.8%) and farm machinery (+2.6%). Alberta wholesale trade increased 1.7% in February, the third highest increase among provinces, following Nova Scotia (+3.4%) and Prince Edward Island (+2.1%).
Alberta	4,015	1.7%	6.4 %	
Canada	35,744	-0.3%	- 2.1 %	
Retail sales ($ Millions)	February			In February, Canadian retail sales rose 2.3%, the fastest monthly increase in more than six years. An 8.3% rise in auto and recreational vehicle sales led the gains, with additional increases reported in clothing (+2.4%), furniture (+1.6%), and general merchandise stores (+1.0%). All provinces except Nova Scotia (-0.3%) reported increases in February. Alberta posted the second highest increase for the month, at 5.6%, second only to Saskatchewan (+7.1%).
Alberta	3,456	5.7%	5.3%	
Canada	27,025	2.3%	1.9%	